

Application No. 10/697,574
Filed: October 30, 2003
TC Art Unit: 2652
Confirmation No.: 8327

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Tanaka et al. (US Pat. No. 5,684,775). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites that the disk tray has an earth plate attaching portion to which the earth plate is attached and a bezel attaching portion, separate from the earth plate attaching portion, to which the bezel is attached. The earth plate is attached directly to the earth plate attaching portion independently from the bezel, and the bezel is attached directly to the bezel attaching portion independently from the earth plate. Thus, the earth plate remains fixed to the disk tray when the bezel is removed from the disk tray. Accordingly, because the earth plate is fixed to the front end face of the disk tray, it is possible to prevent the electric components in the disk tray from being influenced by static electricity even when the bezel is not attached to the disk tray. (Application, page 14, line 33, to page 15, line 3) Also, independent method claim 17 recites that the bezel is integrated with the disk tray subsequent to the step of integrating the disk tray with the earth plate.

In Tanaka, the earth plate (sheet-metal member 51) is attached directly to the bezel. The portions 60a and 60b of the rubber sheet 60, noted in the Office Action, touch the earth plate 51, but these portions are not an earth plate attaching portion. While 39e' and 39f' may be considered earth plate attaching portions, they are not, however, attached to the disk tray 36, but rather to the bezel 39. Therefore, Tanaka does not show that the

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disk tray has an earth plate attaching portion or that the earth plate is attached to the disk tray separately from the bezel.

With respect to claim 7, in Tanaka, earth plate 51 is located on the back surface of the bezel (col. 7, lines 27-37). When the bezel is removed from the disk tray, the earth plate is also removed from the disk tray along with the bezel. Accordingly, the earth plate does not cover at least a part of the front end face of the disk tray. Therefore, claim 7 is believed to be patentable over Tanaka for this reason as well.

Regarding claim 8, the Office Action refers to an "inner bezel 60" of Tanaka attached to the front end of the disk tray body. However, the member 60 in Tanaka is a rubber sheet to provide sealing for the disk apparatus 30, and is attached not to the disk tray, but to the back surface of the front bezel (col. 7, lines 13-25). Therefore, Tanaka does not show an inner bezel attached directly to the front end of the disk tray. In claim 8 of the present invention, the earth plate is set between the disk tray body and the inner bezel. In this manner, the earth plate can be maintained fixed to the disk tray and separated from the bezel when the bezel is removed from the disk tray. Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be patentable over Tanaka.

With respect to claim 17, in Tanaka, the earth plate is attached to the bezel, not to the disk tray. Therefore, to manufacture Tanaka's disk drive, the earth plate is attached to the bezel in a first step, and the bezel integrated with the earth plate is attached to the disk tray in a second step. This manufacturing method differs distinctly from the method of claim 17, in which the disk tray is integrated with the earth plate and

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the bezel is subsequently integrated with the disk tray.

Accordingly, claim 17 is believed to be patentable over Tanaka.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and indication thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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